



U.S. Coast Guard History Program

USS *Belfast*, PF-35

A city in Maine.

Builder: Consolidated Steel Corp., Ltd., Wilmington, CA

Length: 303' 11"

Beam: 37' 6"

Draft: 12' 8" fl

Displacement: 2,230 tons

Propulsion: 2-shaft VTE, 3 boilers

Range: 9,500 nm at 12 knots

Top speed: 20 knots

Complement: 190

Armament: 3 x 3"/50; 4 x 40mm (2x2); 9 x 20mm; 1 x Hedgehog, 8 x depth charge projectors; 2 x depth charge racks. For those frigates fitted out for weather patrol duty, the after 3-inch gun was removed and a weather balloon hanger was added aft.

History:

Belfast (PF-35) was launched 20 May 1943 by Consolidated Steel Corp., Ltd., Wilmington, CA, under a Maritime Commission contract. She was sponsored by Miss Elizabeth C. Wilson. *Belfast* was commissioned 24 November 1943 under the command of LCDR J. J. Hutson, Jr., USCG.

The Coast Guard manned *Belfast* joined the 7th Fleet at Cairns, Australia, 29 May 1944 and served as a patrol vessel and convoy escort. She took part in the landings at Noemfoor Island (2 July 1944) and Cape Opmari, New Guinea (30 July 1944). *Belfast* helped escort one of the follow up convoys to Leyte and remained in the area between 29 October and 8 December 1944. On 30 December she got underway for Boston, arriving 24 January 1945. There, she underwent repair and overhaul preparatory to transfer to the USSR under Lend-Lease.

Departing Boston 28 March 1945 she steamed to Alaska and, following a short familiarization period for a Russian crew, was transferred 12 July 1945. She was commissioned into the Soviet Navy as *EK-3* and was lost in a storm off Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka, 17 November 1948.

Belfast received two battle stars for her operations in the Southwest Pacific.

Sources:

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Richard A. Russell. *Project Hula: Secret Soviet-American Cooperation in the War Against Japan*. [The U.S. Navy in the Modern World Series, No. 4.] Washington, DC: Naval Historical Center/U.S. Government Printing Office, 1997, pp. 39-40.

